

REMARKSStatus of the Claims

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 are pending in this application. Claim 12 has been canceled. Newly amended claim 1 is amended to further define the length of the input and output bars. Amended claim 9 is based on the incorporation of allowable claim 12. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 14-24 as obvious over Document 1 (*Impact Engineering*, Nikkan Kogyo Newspaper Ltd., October 28, 1988, pp.173-183) in view of Document 2 (Nakagawa et al., *Lecture Thesis of 16th Series of Chugoku Branch of Japan Design Engineering Society Association*, June 20, 1988, pp. 25-29). Applicants overcome the rejection by amending claim 1 to further define the length of the input and output bars so that the input bar is set to not less than 1500mm and not more than 2500mm, and the output bar is set to not less than 500mm and not more than 2500mm. Applicants submit that this limitation is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. Thus, newly amended claim 1 and all claims that depend either directly or indirectly therefrom are allowable. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants also amend independent claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12, which is indicated as being allowable. Thus, the rejection over claim 9 and the claims that depend either directly or indirectly therefrom are also allowable. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$930.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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